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# COLONIAL HANDBOOKS



## CANADA,

THE

## NEW DOMINION.

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F. ALGAR.

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*"Canadian News" Office,*

11, CLEMENT'S LANE, LOMBARD STREET,  
LONDON, E.C.

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1868.

# The Canadian News,

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*This Journal, established in 1856, gives a Weekly Summary of News from the Dominion of Canada, also Newfoundland, Prince Edward's Island, Red River, and British Columbia, with Special Correspondence from the principal towns.*

*The CANADIAN NEWS will be found useful to all persons interested in the affairs of British North America, whether as Merchant, Capitalist, or intending Emigrant.*

Published by the Proprietor,

**F. ALGAR,**

11, CLEMENT'S LANE, LOMBARD STREET, LONDON.

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**F. ALGAR,**

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A HAND-BOOK  
TO  
CANADA,  
THE  
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LONDON:  
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The Author reserves the right of Translation.

# THE DOMINION OF CANADA.

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IN a work of this kind, designed to supply emigrants of the present day with practical information in a cheap and compendious form, it is unnecessary to refer at any length to the past history of British America, highly interesting and valuable as that record must always be, whether we regard its historical, its political, or its social reminiscences. Those who wish for information on these points must consult works of greater pretensions. Our limits compel us to confine ourselves to the present time.

The year 1867 will constitute a memorable epoch in the future history of British America. In that year the confederation of the British Provinces, which has for years been the object of their most sagacious governors and statesmen, has at last been realised. The basis upon which this federation has been established was laid by a conference of the leading men of the respective provinces, who, after prolonged negotiations, agreed upon a scheme which, for political sagacity and the highest qualities of statesmanship, will for ever entitle them to the respect and gratitude of their countrymen. Their resolutions, having received the approval of the Provincial Legislatures, were embodied in an Act which at once received the cordial sanction of the Imperial Parliament; and in accordance with its provisions Her Majesty, on the 2nd May, 1867, issued her Royal Proclamation appointing the 1st of July as the day on which the Confederation of British America, under the title of the "Dominion of Canada," was to commence its career. That day, hereafter to be known as "Dominion Day," was celebrated with great enthusiasm throughout the provinces. It will require but very little consideration to appreciate the importance of this great step, whether we take into account the external relations of British America with its gigantic and formidable neighbour, the United States, or regard their own social progress and material development. Still more important is it from an Imperial point of view. Instead of weak and isolated provinces, with local prejudices and conflicting interests, British America will henceforth, as the union becomes consolidated, be represented by one closely-knit and united confederation, which, no doubt, in future, will embrace the whole of the enormous tract of British America, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and prove no mean competitor—we trust no unfriendly rival—to the gigantic and rapidly growing American Republic. More especially will this prove to be the case when the inter-colonial railway, which constitutes a principal feature in the scheme of confederation—an Imperial guarantee having been given for its construction—opens up on British territory a free and uninterrupted communication, at all times of the year, from the sea-board of the Atlantic to the head of the great lakes, and, no doubt, in the fulness of time, to be extended across the continent through the at present vast wilderness of the



Hudson's Bay Territory and British Columbia to the Pacific. Secure at length from the probability of hostile aggression, proud of their position as one of the most important elements of the British empire, enjoying all the blessings of constitutional government, free alike from the fear of arbitrary rule, or the excesses of democratic license, the social progress and material development of British America, which of late has been advancing with rapid strides, will now proceed at an accelerated ratio. Her statesmen and legislatures have a great trust committed to them, and although the local legislatures have only just assembled for the first time, we are glad to find that their first efforts are being directed to their great and most important duty of attracting a population to their country; and we have little doubt that, before long, wise and judicious steps will be taken for the settlement of the land, and placing the great resources and capabilities of British American provinces in a more attractive light before the emigrants of the United Kingdom, Germany, and the North of Europe. This is all the more imperative at the present moment, when disorganization and fearful distress, the legacies of the civil war, prevail more or less extensively in all parts of the United States. Hitherto, British America has been strangely passed over by the tide of emigration, although it affords every inducement which should weigh with the emigrant from Europe. It is easily accessible; its climate is healthy; and its soil most fertile and prolific. The regulations for the sale of land render its possession easily attainable, and enable the industrious labourer to speedily become a freeholder. Taxation is not more than one-fifth of the amount levied in the United States; education is placed within the reach of all; and there exists absolute freedom in all matters relating to religious opinions. We wish to point out in the following pages not only the advance which British America has made, but also the facilities which it affords, and the inducements which it holds out to the enterprising capitalist, but still more to the humble and industrious emigrant. We are anxious to direct the attention of our readers to the advantages which the Dominion of Canada offers as compared with the United States and some of our other colonies. It is difficult to understand why, for several years past, so great a preference has been shown to the United States by the great bulk of British emigrants, unless it be in consequence of that want of accurate information which has hitherto prevailed. Canada, even before the civil war and the collapse of the Federal Union and its republican constitution, was as flourishing as its American neighbour; land cheaper; life and property a great deal more secure under the British flag than under the "Stars and Stripes;" education more generally diffused; the climate as good, the soil as productive, the rate of wages as high, and employment more certain and constant.

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The Dominion of Canada comprises the provinces of Quebec (Lower Canada), Ontario (Upper Canada), New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia, the area of the whole being 377,045 square miles, with an aggregate population estimated at 3,800,000, or less than 10 persons to the square mile. Prince Edward's Island and Newfoundland are not as yet members

of the Confederation, but provisions are made for these provinces, and also the north-west territory and British Columbia, to enter it upon equitable terms.

The affairs of the Confederation are administered by the Sovereign or representative, and a General Parliament consisting of a Legislative Council and a House of Commons. In the former, Ontario, Quebec, and the maritime provinces, are to be represented by 24 members each. Its members, who must be upwards of 30 years of age and possess a real property qualification, are appointed by the Crown for life; but non-attendance for two consecutive sessions renders a seat vacant. The basis of representation in the House of Commons is the population of the provinces, revisable every ten years. At present the number of members is fixed at 181; of whom Ontario returns 82, Quebec 65, Nova Scotia 19, and New Brunswick 15. The General Parliament, under the Federation Act, has authority to make all the laws for the peace, welfare, and good government of the federated provinces, and especially on all matters relating to the public debt, and finances, trade and commerce, public works, postal and telegraph communication, naval and military and legal affairs.

The local affairs of the provinces are administered by a Lieutenant-Governor, appointed by the Governor-General in Council, and a Legislature, which varies in the different provinces. In Ontario it consists of one chamber, in Quebec of two. The Local Legislatures have power to make laws on all subjects relating to direct taxation, agriculture, immigration, education, and the sale of public lands, and other local questions.

The number of Senators is fixed (except that six additional Senators may be appointed by the Crown); that of members of the House of Commons is to vary according to the population ascertained at each decennial census, in proportion to that of Quebec, which retains the same number; term of election, five years, unless the House be sooner dissolved; sessions annual. The property qualification is: for Senators, the possession of 4,000 dollars real and personal estate over and above all liabilities; for members of the House of Commons in Ontario and Quebec, £500 sterling of real estate; in New Brunswick, the possession for six months previous to the issue of the writ of election of 1,200 dollars of real estate; in Nova Scotia "a legal or equitable freehold estate in possession, of the clear yearly value of 8 dollars," or the candidate must be "qualified to be an elector."

The following are electors: in Ontario and Quebec, every male subject, being the owner, or occupier, or tenant, of real property of the assessed value of 300 dollars, or of the yearly value of 30 dollars, if within cities or towns, or of the assessed value of 200 dollars or the yearly value of 20 dollars, if not so situate. In New Brunswick, every male subject of the age of 21 years, not disqualified by law, assessed for the year for which the register is made up in respect of real estate to the amount of 100 dollars, or of personal property or personal and real amounting together to 400 dollars, or 400 dollars annual income. In Nova Scotia, all subjects of the age of 21 years, not disqualified by law, assessed for the year for which the register is made up in respect of real estate to the value of

150 dollars, or in respect of personal estate, or of real and personal together, to the value of 300 dollars.

Voting in Quebec, Ontario, and Nova Scotia is open. In New Brunswick votes are taken by ballot.

The Executive, called the "Privy Council," consists of 13 members.

The Local Legislature of Ontario consists of a Lieut.-Governor appointed by the Dominion, and one House only, of 82 members, called the Legislative Assembly; limits of constituencies the same as for the Commons of Canada; qualifications of members and electors the same as above; term four years, unless sooner dissolved; sessions annual.

The Local Legislature of Quebec consists of a Lieut.-Governor appointed by the Dominion, a nominated Legislative Council of 24, and a Legislative Assembly of 65; limits of constituencies the same as for the Senate and Commons respectively; qualification of senators, members, and electors, the same as for the Dominion; term of Parliament, four years, unless sooner dissolved; sessions annual.

The inhabitants of Canada enjoy the utmost political and civil liberty; although a colony, they have perfect control over their own affairs and taxation, independent of the Imperial Government, whilst enjoying the Imperial protection. The laws of England in 1791 prevail in Ontario, subject to the alterations made from time to time by the local Parliament. The laws of France, as they existed at the conquest of Canada by Britain, prevail in Quebec, subject also to the alterations effected by the local Parliament. The criminal and commercial laws of England prevail there, as in Ontario. The Imperial Government never interferes, unless (which scarcely ever occurs) some great national interest is involved. Neither should the superior educational and religious advantages be reckoned among its least recommendations. Churches and chapels of every denomination are to be found, even in the most remote localities. A national system of education extends its advantages over the whole colony; and private schools of a respectable character are to be met with in all the towns. The qualification of an elector is the possession of a freehold of the annual value of 30 dollars in towns, and of 20 dollars in other localities. Both Ontario and Quebec enjoy a very perfect municipal system. The inhabitants of every city, town, village, and township, elect the members of their Local Councils, which have powers of raising money by direct taxation or borrowing for local purposes.

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION.\*

Although the design of this pamphlet is to supply information to emigrants intending to settle in Canada, as it is still popularly called in England; that is, in the provinces of Ontario (Upper Canada) and of Quebec (Lower Canada); a slight sketch of the general features of the Dominion will not be inappropriate.

Ontario (Upper Canada) lies altogether on the north side of the St.

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\* We must express our acknowledgments to the Editor of the "Year-Book of Canada," published by Messrs. Lowe, of Montreal, and the valuable reports of the different public departments.



Lawrence; its western and northern limits not being yet defined. A portion of Quebec lies on the southern side of the St. Lawrence. It is bounded on the west by Ontario; on the south and south-east by the United States and New Brunswick; but on the north and north-east, its limits, stretching as far as Labrador, are as yet undefined. The area of Canada is given in official returns as 331,280 square miles, being 121,260 for Upper, and 210,020 for Lower Canada.

New Brunswick is bounded by Canada, the Gulf of St. Lawrence, Nova Scotia, the Bay of Fundy, and the United States, being divided from the latter by the St. Croix river. Its area is 27,105 square miles.

Nova Scotia is a peninsula connected with New Brunswick by a low sandy isthmus. It is about 300 miles long, and about 100 miles broad at its widest. The island of Cape Breton is now a part of Nova Scotia, the Gut of Canso, which divides them, being less than a mile in breadth. The coast of Nova Scotia is everywhere indented with arms of the sea, and no part of it is more than 20 miles from salt water. Area, including Cape Breton, 18,660 square miles.

Thus the area of the Dominion now is:—

Ontario (estimated) .....	121,260 square miles.
Quebec ditto .....	210,020       ,,
New Brunswick .....	27,105       ,,
Nova Scotia.....	18,660       ,,

Total..... 377,045 square miles.

If to this we add the area of Prince Edward Island, 2,100 square miles; Newfoundland, 40,200 square miles; British Columbia, 220,000 miles (including Vancouver's Island, 20,000); and Labrador, the Hudson's Bay and North-west Territories, say 2,750,000 square miles, we shall have a total for British America of 3,389,345 square miles.

The climate and productions of the provinces are more dissimilar than might be inferred from the latitude of their settled districts. The diversity of the mineral resources of the several colonies is no less than that of their agricultural productions. The western peninsula of Upper Canada as yet alone yields petroleum. It has many valuable quarries, but few metallic ores. These, however, the shores of the upper Lakes, Central and Eastern Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, abundantly supply. Especially valuable are the copper mines of Canada, and the gold and coal of Nova Scotia.

This diversity is, however, a happy thing for all the colonies. While the general severity of their climate enforces activity among their people, the variety of their resources prevents their inhabitants from confining themselves to one branch of industry. Their wants, and the commodities with which to pay for the supply of these wants, being different, they contain within themselves the germs of a trade among themselves, which, when freed from artificial restrictions, and enabled to flow in improved channels, may some day attain vast proportions, rivalling and exceeding their already extensive commerce with foreign nations. With a healthy and bracing climate, a soil which produces all the crops usually raised in



this country, land so cheap and easily attainable that every industrious man may become a freeholder, unsurpassed means of internal communication through its rivers and lakes, railways and canals, and a greater degree of security than can be enjoyed in any other British colony, it is a most eligible field for industry and enterprise.

## CLIMATE.

Extraordinary ideas prevail in Europe with respect to the climate of Canada. The so-called rigour of Canadian winters is often advanced as a serious objection to the country by many who prefer sleet and fog to brilliant skies and bracing cold, and who have yet to learn the value and extent of the blessing conferred upon Canada by her world-renowned "snows;" so much so that the gradual diminution in the fall of snow in certain localities is a subject of lamentation to the farmers in Western Canada. Their desire is for the old-fashioned winters, with sleighing for four months, and spring bursting upon them with marvellous beauty at the beginning of April. A bountiful fall of snow, with hard frost, is equivalent to the construction of the best macadamized roads all over the country. The absence of a sufficient quantity of snow in winter for sleighing is a calamity as much to be feared and deplored as the want of rain in spring. Happily, neither of these deprivations is of frequent occurrence. It is generally supposed that the long winter is unfavourable to agricultural operations; and though the period during which ploughing may be carried on is shorter than in more favourable climates, yet there are many compensating advantages in the excellence of the snow roads, and the great facilities afforded thereby in conveying produce to market, in drawing manure, and hauling out wood from the forest. It is to its dry bracing if cold winters that British America owes its exemption from the yellow fever of the southern states, and its comparative freedom from the ague of the west. The influence of the great lakes in tempering the extreme heat of summer and the cold of the winter is remarkable.

The climate of Quebec is unquestionably the most healthy in North America. Disease is unknown among the usual population, except that caused by inequality of diet or imprudent exposure to atmospheric changes. The extreme dryness of the air is shown by the roofs of the houses (which are covered with tin) remaining so long bright, and by a charge of powder remaining for weeks uncaked in a gun. The steadiness and uniformity of the summer heat causes all grains and fruits to mature well and with certainty. In Quebec melons ripen freely in the open air, and apples attain a peculiar degree of excellence, those of the Island of Montreal being especially famed. The Island of Orleans, below that of Quebec, is equally celebrated for its plums.

In a country of such vast extent as Ontario the climate varies materially. Throughout the agricultural or settled part of it along the St. Lawrence and the lakes, and which extends from 50 to 100 miles in breadth, the winter may be said to commence early in December. Snow usually falls in sufficient quantities in the eastern section of this range to afford good sleighing about the middle of that month, and to continue,

with trifling exceptions, until the middle of March. In the western section, although we have occasionally heavy falls of snow, we are subject to frequent thaws, and sleighing cannot be depended upon except in the interior, at a distance from the lakes. On the cleared lands the snow generally disappears about the middle of March, and the sowing of seed for the spring crops begins early in April, and ends about the 10th of May. Ripe, wild strawberries in abundance may be had by the last of June.

From the head of Lake Ontario, round by the Niagara frontier, and all along the Canadian shores of Lake Erie, the grape and peach grow with luxuriance, and ripen to perfection in the open air, without artificial aid. Over the whole of Canada the melon and tomato acquire large dimensions, and ripen fully in the open air, the seeds being planted in the soil towards the latter end of April, and the fruit gathered in September. Pumpkins and squashes attain gigantic dimensions; they have exceeded 300 pounds in weight in the neighbourhood of Toronto. Indian corn, hops, and tobacco are common crops, and yield fair returns. Hemp and flax are indigenous plants, and can be cultivated to any extent in many parts of the province. With a proper expenditure of capital, England could be made quite independent of Russia, or any other country, for her supply of these valuable products.

The most prevalent wind is the westerly. The ground having been mellowed by the long winter, vegetation in spring is marvellously rapid. The song sparrow, the harbinger of the Canadian spring, makes its first appearance about the first week in April. Frogs are first heard about the 23rd of April. Fire-flies are first seen about the 24th of June; and the snow bird generally makes its appearance about the 20th November; swallows about the 18th of April. The thunder storms of summer, which give a yearly mean of 14 (for the same period of twenty years), are of short duration, forming generally in the W. or N.W.; and the electricity varies in kind. The months of April, May, and June bring returning summer; the nights of July and part of August are generally oppressive, the temperature often remaining at 70 degrees during the night; but the Canadian autumn is very pleasant. The woods, with their leaves of a thousand varied tints, and the blue and cloudless sky, with frosty nights, pleasantly call to mind "that the good times of the merry sleigh-bells are near!" The delicious beauty of the "Indian summer," early in November, is well known. Winter sets in about the 1st of December, as an average of the past twenty-four years, and is generally ushered in by a fall of snow from the N.E. by E., and this is the point of the compass from which our winter storms come. Rain generally sets in from the S.S.W., S.E., and N.E. by E.

### POPULATION.

The last census in all the provinces was taken in 1861, when their aggregate population was: males, 1,588,971; females, 1,501,590: total, 3,090,561. Adopting the same rate of increase since the previous census, we arrive at the following estimated population of each of the provinces for the year 1868:—

	1861		1868
Ontario (Upper Canada) .....	1,396,091	...	1,880,350
Quebec (Lower Canada) .....	1,111,566	...	1,321,074
Nova Scotia .....	330,857	...	375,511
New Brunswick .....	252,047	...	302,950

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Total .....	3,090,561		3,879,885
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The total population of British America, including British Columbia (50,000), Newfoundland (131,000), Prince Edward Island (93,338), Rupert's Land (105,000), is estimated at 4,260,000.

As it is so long since the census has been taken, it is of little use to go into details of the origin, religion, and industrial occupations of the population. The inhabitants of the western parts of the Dominion are almost exclusively engaged in agricultural pursuits; in the eastern the fisheries monopolise their attention; in the central portion lumbering is the most important industry. Manufactures of different kinds are, however, beginning to be of consequence in some of the cities and towns, and mining in a few outlying districts.

## FACILITIES OF COMMUNICATION.

One of the most essential requirements for the development of a new country is the facility of communication. In this respect, both Ontario and Quebec are especially favoured, for they possess the most magnificent system of natural and artificial water communication to be found in the world; not to speak of their railways, which already afford a direct communication between the chief cities and places of both provinces and the principal ports and towns of the United States, but also from Quebec and Montreal throughout their whole length, to the railways of the far West.

The natural advantages conferred upon Canada by the St. Lawrence and the Great Lakes are incalculable. Immediate and direct water communication with the sea for 2,000 miles of inland coast, without any reference to the nearly equal extent of coast belonging to the States of the Union, or the vast affluents which feed the St. Lawrence and the Lakes, striking deep into the heart of the country, appears in itself sufficient to mark out Canada for a distinguished future. Water power, that mighty engine of industry, is everywhere abundant where it is most required, in the midst of magnificent forests of valuable lumber, for which an inexhaustible market exists in the Western States of America, as well as in Europe (almost too rapidly for the means of supply), for the valuable kinds of timber with which Canadian forests abound.

The St. Lawrence navigation is 2,385 miles long, and eight canals, of which seven are Canadian and one American, have been built to make it practicable for all its length. The works can hardly be said to be complete, though they have been long in use, for the general desire and the ultimate intention is to enlarge them so as to admit vessels of 1,000 tons to come from sea into Lake Ontario, if not Lakes Erie and Huron. Let us ascend the St. Lawrence, and, without changing our vessel, explore this magnificent water-system. Three hundred miles up the vast estuary



we pass the mouth of the Saguenay, a deep and noble river, navigable for the largest vessels 70 miles from its outlet. Four hundred and ten miles from the ocean, and we reach Quebec, the great seaport of Canada, with a large and increasing foreign commerce. Five hundred miles more finds us at the limit of the tidewater, and we now begin in reality to ascend the stream of the St. Lawrence; 590 miles brings us to Montreal, where the Ottawa, or Grand River of the North, mingles its red waters with those of the St. Lawrence, after draining a valley of 80,000 square miles in area, lying to the north-west, and penetrating the inexhaustible forests of these districts. At Montreal we reach the canals, constructed for the purpose of overcoming the obstacles to continuous navigation presented by the rapids. These canals, of different lengths, enable us to ascend 116 miles of river in actual horizontal distance, overcoming a fall of 225 feet above the level of tidewater. One hundred and sixty-eight miles above Montreal we enter Lake Ontario, 756 miles from the sea and 234 feet above it. Lake Ontario is 180 miles long, from fifty to sixty miles wide, and has an area of 6,600 square miles. Swiftly traversing its expanse, in sight, probably, of hundreds of other vessels and steamers, we reach the outlet of the Welland Canal, through which, by means of twenty-seven locks, we rise 330 feet to the waters of Lake Érie, 1,041 miles from the sea, and 564 feet above its level. Our progress is still on through Lake Erie, until we arrive at the Detroit River, 1,280 miles from the sea. We pass by the City of Detroit, in the State of Michigan, through Lake St. Clair and the St. Clair River into Lake Huron, 1,355 miles from our starting point, and 573 feet above the ocean. We may now sail on to St. Mary's River, and passing through a short and gigantic canal, constructed by the people of the United States, enter Lake Superior; or we may sail southward into Lake Michigan, and land at Chicago, the emporium of the Great West, where we find before us the vast network of railways spreading over the states and territories of the valleys of the Ohio, Mississippi, and Missouri. Vessels not unfrequently trace out this varied navigation of lake, river, and canal, for the ports of Europe, with valuable cargoes.

The railway system of Canada is of very recent growth indeed. It is scarcely twenty years since the first line from Montreal to Lachine was constructed, and little more than half that period since the opening of the two great lines, the Great Western and the Grand Trunk. All the Canadian railways have been constructed by private companies, largely assisted, in most cases, by government advances. The following is a brief sketch of the several lines:—

The Great Western Railway was built to connect the New York Central Railroad with the Michigan and Illinois lines over Canadian soil, and has always much sought after the through traffic from Chicago to New York. At an early period in its history, when threatened by a diversion of its traffic to the lines on the south shore of Lake Erie, it powerfully aided the construction of a line from Detroit to Grand Haven, so as to control at least the traffic from Milwaukee and Northern Michigan. More recently, acting on the same principle, it has laid down a third rail to suit the gauge of the American railways, and, by what is called "the Blue line," passengers are now carried through from New

York to Chicago without change of cars. The Great Western connects at Detroit with the Michigan lines, and has magnificent ferry steamers there which carry a whole train at a time across the river. It connects with the New York Central at Clifton by means of a suspension railway bridge across the Niagara, a structure which is as great a triumph of engineering art as the Victoria Bridge itself. It connects with the Great Trunk, principally by means of a branch from Hamilton to Toronto, also by a branch from Harrisburg, through Galt, to Guelph. Another important branch runs from Komoka to Sarnia, on Lake Huron, where, and at Hamilton, the Company owns fine grain stores and elevators. A short line has also been opened to the oil regions at Petrolia.

If the Great Western was originally built to carry western traffic to the Atlantic at New York, the Grand Trunk Railway was built for the opposite purpose of carrying it as far as possible through Canada, and delivering it at the sea-board at Montreal, Quebec, or Portland. The accommodation and development of the local traffic of Canada was also a leading idea of the projectors of this line, which, without derogating from the credit due to the originators of the Great Western, must be called pre-eminently the Canadian Railway. It is to be regretted that, at the building of the Grand Trunk, the Great Western was not amalgamated with it, as was at first intended, and made its western section. The Grand Trunk owns a branch railway from Detroit to Port Huron, opposite Sarnia; so that it competes at Detroit with other lines for the traffic of the West. It has fine ferry steamers at Sarnia, and an unbroken line from this place to River du Loup, below Quebec, on the St. Lawrence, and to Portland, on the Atlantic, crossing the St. Lawrence at Montreal by means of the Victoria Bridge. The Grand Trunk has recently acquired control over the Buffalo and Lake Huron Railway, from Goderich to Buffalo, where it has ferry-boats connecting with the New York railways; also of the Montreal and Champlain Railway, which gives it an alternative route to Boston and New York. It has branches from St. Mary's to London, and from Arthabaska to Doucet's Landing, opposite Three Rivers.

The Welland Railway supplies the break in the navigation caused by the Falls of Niagara; the London and Port Stanley, and the Northern Railway from Collingwood to Toronto, both of which afford communication to the localities through which they pass to the Lakes. The other lines which supply the local traffic are the Port Hope and Peterborough; the Coburg, Peterborough and Marmora; the Brockville and Ottawa; the Ottawa and Prescott; the Stanstead, Carillon and Grenville; the Stanstead, Shefford and Chambly; and the St. Lawrence and Industrie.

One of the articles of the Confederation stipulates for the construction of the inter-colonial railway, as it is called, as a contribution for which the Imperial Parliament, by an Act passed in 1867, guarantees interest at the rate of four per cent. upon a loan of £3,000,000. This line will complete on British territory an unbroken communication between Halifax and St. John, the ports of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, on the coast of the Atlantic, with the railways of Quebec and Ontario, and, through them, with all parts of the United States, accessible at all

seasons of the year. At present, during the winter, when the St. Lawrence and the canals are closed with ice, the only communication is through the United States, and in the event of hostilities the westerly provinces of the Dominion are cut off from all Imperial aid. It is impossible to overrate the importance of this line to the future progress of the Dominion of Canada, whether we look at it from an imperial or provincial point of view. It will consolidate the union and the strength of the Confederation by developing their trade, by aiding their defence, and uniting their political and social interests. In addition to this it will open up a vast tract of country hitherto almost unknown, and establish towns and cities where there are now only a few Indian villages and fishing stations.

There is a very complete system of telegraphs throughout all the provinces of the Dominion, communicating with the lines of the United States on the one side, the Atlantic Cable on the other. The wires of the Montreal Telegraph Company, which has bought up the other lines, now reach almost every village in Quebec and Ontario.

### IMMIGRATION.

The provincial governments and legislatures are fully alive to the importance of promoting a well-organised system of immigration, and distributing it over the localities which afford the most suitable openings within their respective limits. Upon a steady and constant increase of the population their future progress and development depend, as well as their relative political influence.

Canada has, for a long period, endeavoured to afford to the emigrating classes in Great Britain and several other European countries correct information respecting the position and resources of the country, the wages obtainable, and the cost of living; to give to emigrants on their arrival the advantage of official and, therefore, disinterested advice as to the places where employment is to be found, which information is obtained from officials stationed in the principal cities; also to furnish information as to the quantity, quality, and price of Crown lands open for settlement in the various districts. The tax payable by masters of vessels for emigrants on arriving has of late years been reduced, and it is now 1 dollar per head for emigrants in ships under the sanction of British officials, and 1 dollar 50 cents for others. Emigrants, on arrival in Canada, should immediately place themselves in communication with one of the Government Emigration Agents, who will readily give all necessary information as to suitable openings for labour or capital.

The agents of the Governments of Ontario and Quebec, at the latest dates, were :—

At the Chief Agent's Office, Old Custom House, Quebec; Mr. L. Stafford, Assistant, Grand Trunk Railway Station, Point Levi; Mr. J. H. Daly, Montreal; Mr. A. J. Wills, Ottawa; Mr. J. McPherson, Kingston; Mr. J. A. Donaldson, Toronto; Mr. R. H. Rae, Hamilton; also Mr. William Dixon, Canadian Immigration Office, Wolverhampton, England. Why this latter place should be selected in preference to London, Liverpool, or Glasgow, cannot be satisfactorily explained.



The motto of the Capital of Canada is "Industry, Intelligence, and Integrity," and her emblem is the Beaver. These qualifications are required by all who desire to succeed in a country situated like the Canadian provinces; but when exercised they cannot fail, humanly speaking, to command success. There are no monopolies, exclusive privileges, or great and impassable gulfs between grades of society, such as exist in older countries, to check or arrest the progress of the honest and industrious man. Many persons now wealthy and influential originally landed in Canada without friends or means; and there are still many who may so arrive to whom the future at first may seem doubtful, but who will most assuredly find, with patience, industry, and sobriety, themselves in a few years enjoying the luxury of well-earned independence, with ample and increasing provision for declining years or a growing family. These remarks apply particularly to such emigrants whose first object on arriving is to obtain remunerative employment; it is for their benefit that Government agencies have been established, in order to furnish operatives of every class with such full, practical, and authentic information as will not only facilitate them in procuring employment, but guard them against unfounded expectations.

We extract the following from official circulars:—

The demand for artisans and mechanics in many trades is merely nominal, and the employment which these classes are likely to find for some time is not very certain unless they arrive with sufficient means to establish themselves in the rising towns and villages, many good openings of the kind occurring throughout the rural districts. Our farmers, however, will be able, no doubt, to afford full employment to a considerable number of skilled agricultural labourers, to which class alone does this country at present offer the certainty of steady employment.

Female domestics are much required, and they will readily obtain situations throughout the province at advanced wages.

For clerks, and such like persons seeking employment in mercantile life, Canada offers no encouragement whatever.

To the farmer with small means, or to such persons as are desirous of entering upon the occupation of land, this country offers the strongest encouragement. Cheap and fertile lands; easy of access; a healthful climate; and ready markets, both for the purchase of the luxuries of life as well as for the sale of all surplus produce, place Canada in a rank equal to any other country to which emigrants usually resort.

The best time for emigrants to arrive in Canada is as soon as possible after the navigation is open, generally from about the middle of April to the early part of May. On arriving at Quebec they will find every facility for continuing their journey, and the best advice from the immigration and land agents of the Government, who will carefully attend to their wants, and are especially directed to prevent their being defrauded in any way. It is on this account that emigrants are so earnestly advised to land at Quebec, where they will meet with a protection and assistance to be found in no other port on the Atlantic sea-board.

The approaching construction of the Intercolonial Railway, the opening up of the mineral treasures of the shores of Lake Superior, the gold fields and oil wells which are being discovered in different parts of the provinces, besides other important public works, will require a large additional supply of labour, both skilled and ordinary.

The questions of outfit, &c., &c., are best regulated by the individual emigrants themselves, according to their wants and means.

## CROWN LANDS. FREE GRANTS, ETC.

The Crown Lands have, by the Confederation Act, been placed under the control of the Provincial Governments.

At the end of 1866, 25,031,838 acres of lands in Ontario had been surveyed, of which 21,746,655 had been disposed of by sale and free grant. This showed as progress during the year 275,679 acres surveyed, and 258,313 acres sold.

The lands are divided into Crown, School, Clergy, and Indian lands. The proceeds of the sale of Crown lands go into the Provincial revenue, those of the others to special funds created for the support of schools, clergy, or Indians.

The value of lands depends, of course, on their fertility and their proximity to roads and markets. There has been a great deal of controversy as to the fertility of those still open for settlement, and the truth appears to be that while there are no large, wild tracts remaining so uniformly fertile as the basin of the St. Lawrence river or the peninsula of Canada West, there is still available an immense area of richly productive land, within equal degrees, which will allow of the profitable cultivation of wheat and the coarser cereals and corn; and if these fertile lands are really in patches or in river valleys, divided from each other by rocky tracts, and even hilly ranges, such formations contain rich mineral wealth which will ultimately be the basis of a branch of industry second hardly to agriculture itself.

With some few exceptions, Crown lands are sold by agents resident in various districts, at 70 cents per acre for cash, and one dollar per acre on credit.

At the end of 1866 there were 25,871,502 acres of land surveyed in Quebec, and laid off into farm lots, besides 306,947 acres in the Gaspé oil districts, surveyed, but not sub-divided. Of these, 19,284,734 were disposed of, showing a progress during the year of 305,824 acres surveyed, and 195,379 acres sold. Crown lands agents in Quebec receive the same emoluments as those in Ontario. The price of the wild lands is, however, less than in Ontario, and varies from 20 to 60 cents per acre. The quality of these lands is, of course, variable, but the vacant lands on the south shore of the St. Lawrence are usually as fertile as any that have been settled, while there are many fine river-valleys in the Ottawa district which are very inviting to the farmer.

In both provinces—on leading lines of road, which it is desirable on public grounds should be settled with rapidity—free grants of land are made. This is considered an inducement to poor emigrants from Europe, and, in fact, several settlements have thus been formed where settlers destitute of means have, within a few years, made themselves comfortable homes, and are now prosperous farmers. The legislatures of both provinces have already sanctioned a proposal on which free grants will be made, on liberal conditions, with respect to residence and clearing, &c., in certain localities, and will, probably, by the time this pamphlet is in print, have passed a Homestead Law similar to that of many of the states in the American Union. As regards particulars relating to these grants, and all other matters connected with the purchase of land, the

Government agents will afford every information. Settlers with capital may often purchase farms or locations more or less cleared. The following information with respect to the first operations of the settler in the bush may, perhaps, be of value.

Almost all the land available is covered with timber. The first process is to remove the trees, and to fence in, preparatory to cropping, the stumps usually being left until the farmer has more leisure and means at his disposal. The price varies greatly according to circumstances, but may be quoted at present as 12 to 15 dollars per acre. Timber is now becoming scarce and valuable in some locations, and near the railways the value is fully equal to the first cost of clearing the land.

A comfortable log-house, 16 feet by 24, with two floors and shingle roof, costs £18; log-barn, 24 by 40 feet, £15; frame-house of same dimensions, £80; ditto barn, £100; suitable sheds, &c., £40. Tables, 10s. to 17s. 6d.; stump bedsteads, 10s. to 20s. each; chairs, per dozen, £1 5s.; boilers, saucepans, kettles, knives and forks, &c., &c., are about 50 per cent. over the usual sterling retail prices in England. It must be borne in mind that the settler very seldom spends money in erecting his buildings, they being generally built by himself, with the assistance of his neighbours, and added to as his wants and increasing prosperity may from time to time require. The cost of household furniture, or rather the quantity required, varies with the ideas of almost every family. In many cases it does not exceed £15; sometimes not half that sum; and is often altogether manufactured by the settler himself.

Wheat, which succeeds best on newly cleared and burnt land, is always the first grain crop. Farmers with capital sow with grasses first, and wait five or six years; but the farmer of limited means puts the land into crop the next year, either with potatoes or spring corn; then follows wheat again, every alternate year, until he has power to clear enough new land for his wheat crop each year—when the old land is laid down in meadows and otherwise cropped, without much attention to the usual general rules of good farming, until the stumps rot sufficiently to admit of the free use of the plough. The best English and Scotch farmers then adopt the customary three or four course system, or otherwise wheat, with a winter and summer fallow alternate years. The first crops are always put in with the harrow alone.

The produce per acre of all crops varies much from year to year in Canada, owing to the late and early frosts. It is, however, generally considered that the following is a fair average of ten years on all tolerably cultivated farms:—Wheat, 25 bushels; barley, 30 bushels; oats, 40 bushels; rye, 30 bushels; potatoes, 250 bushels, per acre. Swedish turnips, mangold wurtzel, and other roots of a similar kind, are not generally sufficiently cultivated to enable an average yield to be given; but it may very safely be said that, with similar care, culture, and attention, the produce will not be less per acre than in England. Flax and hemp are now coming rapidly into notice as an additional resource to the agriculturist; the quality of both articles is excellent, and the quantity obtained affords a profitable return, the climate and soil being well adapted to their growth. Tobacco has also been raised in



considerable quantities, particularly in the western extremities of the province.

All fruits grown in England thrive well; but the plum, apple, strawberry, raspberry, and melon attain a luxuriance of growth and perfection unknown in England. The melon, planted in the open ground, in most years produces excellent crops. In many places vines prosper well. Peaches are indigenous south of the parallel of 43 degrees, or, if not absolutely indigenous, grow rapidly from the stone, and bear fruit within a few years, although good and rich-flavoured grapes and peaches are seldom met with, owing to their culture being neglected. The same observations apply to all garden produce, which will attain a degree of luxuriance unknown, perhaps, in Britain, with far less care and culture.

The time of the setting in of the frost, and of its departure, varies in Canada extremely in different years; but no prudent man ought to calculate on being able to do anything in the open field after the middle of November, or much before the 1st day of April. Fodder must be provided for cattle, sufficient to last till the middle of May, as although a surplus may be left, owing to the early setting in of the spring, yet cases have been known of great distress prevailing from want of proper attention on this head.

The new settler's avocations during the winter months are generally confined to taking care of his cattle, and chopping—that is, felling and cutting up the trees ready for burning in the spring. The underbush must be cleared off before the snow falls. The family, when industrious, find their time fully employed in spinning and other female occupations; and when it is considered that in the newest settlements almost every article of convenience or luxury must be made at home or be dispensed with by poor settlers, it may easily be imagined that the duties of a farmer's wife and grown-up daughters are numerous and unceasing—for in proportion with their industry and abilities will be their domestic comfort and happiness. In the summer, from the scarcity of labour, all assist in the fields, the child of even five years old being usefully and healthily employed in some occupation befitting his age and strength. Amongst too many Canadian farmers, however, the winter is a season of idleness and enjoyment, a great portion of it being spent in amusement and visiting, to the manifest neglect of their farms and impoverishment of themselves and families.

### TIMBER.

The woods and forests are also under the control of the Provincial Governments. From a paper by the Hon James Skead, on the Lumber Trade of the late Province of Canada, it appears that the lumbering districts of the country may be divided into eight parts: the Saguenay Valley, 27,000 square miles; the St. Maurice, 21,000; the valleys between the Saguenay and the St. Maurice Valley, 8,000; between the St. Maurice and Montreal, 9,000; the Ottawa Valley, 87,761; the valley between Kingston and the Trent, 2,350; the Trent Valley, 6,200; besides 65,000 east of the Saguenay, and 60,000 divided into Lakes Huron and Superior: total, 297,711 square miles. About 25 per cent.

of the standing pine is available for squared timber; 40 per cent. more for saw-logs; the remaining 35 per cent. is undergrowth, useless or damaged. The average quantity of timber got out yearly is given by Mr. Skead as nearly 87 millions of cubic feet.

The right to get timber is obtained by licenses. The system of disposing of these hitherto has been to sell "timber limits" at auction. Each limit is theoretically ten miles square. The limit-holder becomes a tenant to the Crown at the fixed ground-rent bid, and pays, besides, a halfpenny per cubic foot of squared timber, or fivepence per piece on each standard log (12 feet long by 21 inches in diameter). No limits have been sold for some time, and it is not unlikely that the rates may be considerably raised.

Lumbering, as it is called, is one of the most important interests, and in some years the value of its exports has exceeded the agricultural.

The lumber trade employs, in the forest alone, 15,000 men, and in the partial manufacture of lumber over 2,000 mills, and at least 10,000 men. It further employs at Quebec about 1,200 vessels, of an aggregate freight capacity of 700,000 tons, besides 500,000 of lake and canal tonnage. Seventeen thousand seamen are engaged in carrying its products from Quebec to Europe, and 8,000 more in their transportation on inland waters.

### MINERALS.

Few countries possess greater mineral wealth, although, as yet, capital has been wanting to develop this industry. The subject, however, is engaging the attention of the local legislatures, and, in all probability, before long, the mining regulations will be altogether remodelled, and adequate inducements held out for the encouragement of mining enterprise. We abbreviate the following from the report of Mr. Charles Robb, Mining Engineer:—

With the exception of coal, tin, and a few of the less important metals, Canada has been found to produce most of the useful minerals; while, with regard to many of them, it may be safely asserted that the province contains within itself amply sufficient for domestic consumption, as well as for extensive foreign commerce.

Coal does not occur, probably, in any part; but Canada is favourably situated at all points to the carboniferous regions of the United States and of Nova Scotia, and in the facility of conveyance afforded by its vast lakes, rivers, and canals; and, moreover, it contains within itself such ample supplies of wood, peat, and mineral oil, as will go far to compensate for the want of coal.

In the so-called Laurentian formation, occupying a vast tract of country on the north side of the St. Lawrence, iron ores occur in such quantity as may be considered practically inexhaustible. It is the same as the ores from Sweden and Norway, from which the celebrated Swedish iron is manufactured. The specular oxide, which is also abundant in Canada, is the kind which is so extensively mined at Marquette, on Lake Superior, and produces, as is well known, a most valuable description of iron.

Most of the localities where important discoveries of these iron ores have been made in Canada are fortunately situated on or near the banks of navigable rivers and canals, and the ore generally occurs immediately at the surface. Mining and smelting operations have been carried on pretty extensively at Marmora, in Hastings County; and, at the present time, a powerful joint stock company is engaged in establishing similar works at Hull, near Ottawa City, with the most flattering prospects of success. From other localities, much of the ore has for many years been exported into the United States at remunerative prices; from ten mines, up to the year 1860, 14,000 tons of ore had been thus disposed of. At Moisie River, on the north shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, a company is now engaged in working, on a large scale, alluvial deposits of remarkably

rich magnetic iron sand, from which the finest steel can be manufactured by a very simple and inexpensive process.

Copper, undoubtedly, constitutes the most important of the mineral treasures of Canada, and is destined to occupy a very important rank among its resources. The ores of copper are distributed over vast tracts of country in the north shores of Lakes Superior and Huron, in Central Canada, and in the Eastern Townships of Lower Canada. At the West Canada Company's mines on Lake Huron the average production for the last five years has been about 3,000 tons of 20 per cent. ore, with a force of from 250 to 300 hands; the whole of this ore, which may be valued at 250,000 dollars annually, is shipped to England, and this company's operations are reputed to be highly remunerative. At many points on the north, or Canadian, shores of Lake Superior, rich lodes of copper and lead (some of the latter being highly argentiferous) have been discovered, but are, for the most part, as yet undeveloped.

In Central Canada, copper and lead ores are found in promising quantities in the counties of Hastings, Leeds, and Lanark, but no very extensive or systematic mining operations have hitherto been instituted. The copper mines of the Eastern Townships have attracted much attention during the past six years, and their value has been, in too many instances, unduly inflated by interested speculators; but although, in such cases, considerable disappointment has been experienced by over-sanguine capitalists who have embarked in such undertakings, sufficient has been developed to prove that, in several districts in this part of the country, copper mining may be carried on successfully on a large scale.

Gold probably ranks next in importance among the metallic productions of Canada, the alluvial gold diggings of the Chaudiere Valley having been pretty extensively, though unsystematically, prosecuted during the last few years. In the Report of the Commission the production of the previous year, in the Chaudiere division, is given as 116,000 dollars, which is estimated to yield four dollars per day as the wages of every man employed. The largest nuggets found have been worth about 300 dollars, and most of the alluvial gold has been obtained within a very limited area. In this district, also, and at other parts of Canada East, gold-bearing quartz veins have been discovered of sufficient richness to pay a very handsome profit upon the cost of crushing and separating, for which purpose several mills are now in process of construction and erection.

In the counties of Hastings, Leeds, and Lanark, as also in the Ottawa district, marble, phosphate of lime, and plumbago, have been ascertained to be very extensively diffused. The latter mineral is now attracting much attention among mining adventurers in Canada, which bids fair to become the most important source of supply, perhaps, in the world. Recently, processes whereby the plumbago may be economically and on the large scale separated from earthly impurities have been introduced into Canada; and one establishment of this kind, situated in the Township of Lochaber, 25 miles below Ottawa City, is now in successful operation.

The only other minerals of economic importance at present being worked to any extent in Canada are building materials, roofing slates, and gypsum; but of these we have no statistics to offer. There are three quarries of roofing slate in the Eastern Townships in successful operation. Rock oil has been very largely produced in the townships of Enniskillen and Zone, in Canada West, but no statement of the actual amount produced can be made.

## THE FISHERIES.

The fisheries are attracting much attention, and will no doubt prove a productive source of wealth. They are inexhaustible, and are now subjected to a regular system of licensing. Inspectors have been recently appointed, and every endeavour is being made to preserve them and encourage their increase. They are only as yet in their infancy, and a brief statement of them is here given, showing their extent and their value even in the very limited use of them now made.

Quebec possesses, in the River and Gulf of St. Lawrence, an extent of coast of 1,000 miles, where the cod, herring, mackerel, salmon, and other fisheries are carried on successfully. Whale fishing is carried on by vessels fitted out from the Port of Gaspé. The cod fishing is carried



on along the whole shore of Canada; the herring fishing principally at the Magdalen Islands, in the Bay of Chaleurs, and on the coast of Labrador; the mackerel fishing at the Magdalen Islands, along the coast of Gaspé, and in the lower part of the River St. Lawrence. There are above 70 salmon fishery rivers in Lower Canada, which the Government is now fostering, with a view to enhance the commerce in this valuable fish. The inland lakes and rivers abound in fish.

The produce of the lakes and rivers in Ontario consist chiefly of white fish, salmon, salmon-trout, herring, lake-trout, speckled trout, sturgeon, pickerel, bas, maskinonge, &c. Inferior kinds also abound in the smaller lakes, tributaries, and streams. The extensive area, great depth, clear cold waters, abundant feeding banks, shoals and spawning grounds, of the principal lakes in this province render the fish found therein numerous, of good quality, and large size.

### EDUCATION.

The educational system of the provinces is very complete, and places instruction suitable to its station in life within the reach of every class.

In Ontario, each township is divided into school sections of a suitable extent for one school, and in each of these sections three trustees are elected to manage its school affairs. In towns, cities, or villages, Boards of Trustees, elected by the rate-payers, supervise the management and expenditure.

The Common Schools are supported partly by Government, and partly by local, self-imposed taxation, and occasionally by the payment of a small monthly fee for each scholar. In long-settled rural districts each school section is now distinguished by a handsome brick school-house, furnished with maps, authorized school books, and elementary philosophical apparatus. All common school teachers must pass an examination before a County Board of Education, or receive a license from the Provincial Normal School, empowering them to teach, before they can claim the Government allowance. The Provincial Normal School is a highly effective and useful institution for the training of teachers, and annually sends forth from 100 to 150 young men and women, who, having been uniformly instructed in the art of conducting a school, and communicating knowledge, gradually are establishing in Upper Canada a system of common school education of great promise. The model schools are attached to it, in which the scholar teachers receive practical training.

Provision is also made in Ontario for Roman Catholic separate schools.

The Grammar Schools are the next most important feature in the Upper Canada school system, being the intermediate link between the Common School and the Academy or College. The pupils of the Grammar Schools are grounded in Latin, French, and Greek; arithmetic, algebra, and Euclid; the ancient and most of the modern histories commonly taught in schools; the elements of natural history, natural philosophy, and geology, physiology, chemistry, book-keeping, drawing, and vocal music.

Notwithstanding their number and importance, the Common and

Grammar Schools of the Upper Province may, nevertheless, be looked upon as only a part of her educational agencies. The Private Schools, Academies, and Colleges must also be considered, in order to form a correct idea of the state and progress of education in the country. In 1866 the two former numbered 260, and contained 410 teachers and 5,966 pupils.

Besides a richly endowed Provincial University, supplied with a complete staff of highly competent professors and lecturers, there are several other universities and colleges in Upper Canada in connection with different religious denominations. The standard of education adopted in some of the Canadian universities assimilates as closely as possible to that of the universities of Great Britain and Ireland, and the professorial staffs are generally supplied from them. It is stated that the expenses of a full university course in Toronto need not exceed £60 sterling per annum, board and tuition included.

The School system of Quebec is similar in general outline to that of Ontario, the Common Schools receiving a legislative grant equal in amount to the sum assessed for school rates on the inhabitants of each municipality; but, as the Catholics preponderate, the system with regard to "separate schools" is reversed, the Protestants, or "Dissentients," as they are locally called, supporting the latter in contradistinction to the Common Schools, which are almost exclusively attended by the Roman Catholics. The branches taught in the Common Schools comprise reading, writing, simple and compound arithmetic, book-keeping, geography, history, French and English grammar. There were 146 Separate or Protestant Dissident Schools in operation in 1866, as also 37 Catholic Separate Schools in localities where the Protestant element prevailed. The Normal Schools are three in number: two of them, the McGill (English) and the Jacques Cartier (French), are situated in Montreal, and one, the Laval (French), in Quebec.

There are three Universities in Lower Canada, viz.; McGill, at Montreal, with affiliated colleges, Morrin at Quebec, St. Francis at Richmond, and the Congregational at Montreal; Laval University (French and R. C.), at Quebec; and Bishops' College (Church of England), at Lennoxville. Besides these, there are a large number of colleges without university powers of greater or less wealth, the chief of which are at Montreal, one under the charge of the St. Sulpicians, and the other of the Jesuits, St. Hyacinthe, Terrebonne (the Masson), l'Assomption, Nicolet, Three Rivers, and St. Anne's. The Superior Schools are of a very high order, and many of the Seminaries attached to religious houses are well endowed and amply provided with efficient professors and teachers.

## CURRENCY AND COINAGE.

The dollar is, by law, defined to be one-fourth of a pound, the cent one-hundredth of a dollar, the mill one-tenth of a cent; and it is declared that any statement as to money value may be made, either in pounds, shillings, and pence, or in dollars, cents, and mills. The Public Accounts have been kept in dollars and cents since 1858.

The pound currency is usually called "Halifax currency," and "any gold coins of the standard of fineness (fixed on 1st May, 1854) which Her Majesty directs to be struck at the Royal Mint," are a legal tender in proportion to their weight. The pound sterling (Victoria sovereign) is declared equal to, and legal tender for, £1 4s. 4d., or 4 dollars 86 $\frac{2}{3}$  cents. The gold Eagle of the United States, coined before July, 1834, is legal for 10 dollars 66 $\frac{2}{3}$  cents, or £2 13s. 4d.; but if coined after that date, or as long as the standard of fineness fixed by the laws of the United States be not changed, for only 10 dollars, or £2 10s. The gold coins of the United States, being "multiples or halves of the said Eagle," are legal for proportionate sums. Other foreign gold coins may be, but have not been, made legal by proclamation. The British shilling is a legal tender for 24 $\frac{1}{3}$  cents. No foreign silver coin is lawful money; and British silver is only legal tender to the extent of 10 dollars.

The copper coins of the United Kingdom are a legal tender to the amount of twenty cents, or one shilling currency, the penny for two cents, and subdivisions thereof in proportion. The pence and halfpence still current in Canada were imported by the Banks. The Government has, within the last few years, imported both silver and bronze coins: twenty, ten, and five cent pieces of silver, and one cent pieces of bronze.

In general practice, both American quarters and British shillings are taken in shops in Canada for twenty-five cents, goods being "marked up" accordingly, and tradesmen frequently give a premium for Bank Bills. American silver has therefore been imported in large quantities, and several million dollars' worth of it are in circulation in the Province.

The paper money of Canada has been, until of late, exclusively issued by the Banks, and is of the denominations of 1, 2, 4, 5, 10, 20, 50, and 100 dollars.

## AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS.

We cannot do better under this heading than quote the excellent advice given by Mr. French, the agent of the Opeongo Road, on the practical methods to be adopted:—

The climate of Canada being so widely different from that of the United Kingdom the system of farming and the rotation of crops must necessarily be dissimilar in both countries; and, as it is most essential that the emigrant should be made familiar with every phase of the difficulties he will have to encounter in the land of his adoption, I will suppose the settler to have safely reached his destination, and that he has selected his lot of land. His first duty will be to clear about an acre, and to erect a house or "shanty." The clearing of this quantity of land before putting up the shanty is necessary, lest, when burning the brush, the shanty should get burned also. If there does not happen to be a settler in the neighbourhood already, the newly-arrived will have to take another with him, and camp in the bush while doing the chopping and putting up the shanty. If, however, there be any habitation within a reasonable distance, he is certain, not only of being permitted to lodge there, but to be treated with kindness, and to receive every assistance in making a home for himself. The erection of a shanty is neither a tedious nor an expensive piece of work. It is built of wood cut on the spot, and roofed with scooped trees simply laid across it. It takes about eight men to build a shanty 18 by 20 feet. The Canadian shanties are infinitely more clean and comfortable than are the usual class of peasants' cabins in Ireland. There is never any charge for building them. Among the settlers it is deemed a sacred duty never to refuse going to a "raising" (the erecting of a house, shanty, or barn), and they feel equally bound to refuse all payment for such labour. The house or shanty being now up and occupied,



the farming begins by chopping as much more as there may be time for, and planting with wheat, oats, or potatoes (generally the latter), or a little of each, just as may be convenient or desirable.

The difficulty of clearing land in Canada is a subject upon which the inhabitants of the mother-country entertain very exaggerated ideas, and as I think such should be removed, I shall give a statement of the quantity of labour necessary to leave an acre (English) fit to crop. The *chopping* of land means the cutting down of trees and dividing them into logs of 10 or 15 feet in length. The only land ever selected for farming is that which produces hardwood, and the average time in which an ordinary axeman should under-brush and chop an average acre of such land is eight days. After being chopped for a few days, the women or children set fire to the brush-heaps, and if they get what is termed "a good burn," nothing remains on the following day but the large logs. A yoke of oxen and five men are then employed for a day in logging—that is, making piles of those logs, so that they may be burned off altogether; but if oxen cannot be had, the logging may be done by manual labour at the expense of some three or four additional men. The logging finished, the piles are at once set fire to; this occupies but a very short time, but in order to insure their being completely reduced to ashes a man must spend a day in keeping the logs together, or, as it is called, "branding." Thus it may be calculated that fourteen men and a yoke of oxen can clear an acre of wild land and leave it fit to crop. The ashes should be gathered and put into a shed, supposed to have been made beforehand, and which a man can easily erect in a day.

The ashes taken off and the land sufficiently cool, wheat, oats, barley, or potatoes may be planted in it without any further preparation. The process of putting in potatoes is different from that in the United Kingdom, and may be thus explained (men, women, and children can be useful in the operation):—The women, with hoes, scrape shallow holes in the ground at distances of about three feet apart, into which the children drop three slits of the potato, and then the men, with hoes, scratch up the earth around them, until each hole has been transformed into a small mound; and thus are the potatoes planted. Eight men and two women are sufficient to plant an acre. Wheat, oats, or barley is simply shaken on the new land, and then "dragged" (harrowed) in, without any previous ploughing or cultivation. Should potatoes be the first crop, then the grain is sown the next year in the potato soil, just as in the new land. Wheat is generally the crop that succeeds the potatoes, then oats for two or three years, and finally a crop of peas is usually taken off before the ground is "seeded down" with grass seed and clover.

Such, then, is the probable labour of clearing land, and the rotations in which it is generally cropped. I shall now speak of the seasons and the periods at which the various crops may be put in and taken out.

Generally speaking, the snow is off the ground fit for ploughing between the 25th April and 1st May. Peas and Indian corn may be sown up to the 20th of May; spring wheat to the 25th of May; Swede turnips to the 15th of May; Aberdeen turnips to the 10th of July; oats to the 1st of June; potatoes to the 24th June; cabbage seed is planted in a box about the 15th of April, and planted out by the 1st of June.

Hay mowing generally commences about the 12th of July. Reaping wheat that has been sown in the fall (autumn) begins about the 1st of August. If it be not lodged it can be "cradled," which means being cut with an implement called a cradle, resembling a scythe, and by means of which a man will cut at least four times as much as with the reaping-hook. Spring wheat comes in about the 10th of August, and may also be "cradled" if not lodged. Oats are usually fit for cutting by the 14th of August, and are most frequently "cradled." Peas ripen by the 5th of August, and are cut with the scythe and reaping-hook. Indian corn is gathered in about the 5th of September, and it takes about four men to the acre. Women and children are almost as useful at this work. Potatoes ripen according to the time at which they have been planted. They are taken out with the hoe, and at this work, too, the women and children are found useful. The taking out of potatoes costs nearly as much labour as the planting of them.

By the 10th of October the harvest is generally housed, and then under-brushing—which cannot be done in winter in consequence of the deep snow—is commenced. Potash is now being made, and sleighs, &c., put in order for the winter's work. Potash is very remunerative to the farmer, and requires but little skill in the manufacture.

The kettle and coolers necessary cost about £14, but they are always supplied on credit by the store-keepers in the neighbourhood, who are paid in potash or other farm produce. The ashes of  $2\frac{1}{4}$  acres of ordinary hardwood land should be sufficient to make a barrel of potash, say of the second quality, and for this the owner should receive 30 dollars (£7 10s.), after deducting all expenses of carriage, storage, &c.

## GAME AND FISHERY LAWS.

Of late years much attention has been devoted to the enforcement of the Game and Fishery Laws of Quebec and Ontario, and the Acts relating thereto have been repeatedly amended in accordance with the suggestions of the Fish and Game Clubs of Montreal and Quebec, and the experience acquired by the officers of the Fisheries Department.

The close season for deer or fawn, elk, moose, or cariboo, in Ontario, begins on the 1st January, and ends on the 1st September. They are not allowed to be trapped, or taken by any traps or snares whatever. The close season for wild turkey, grouse, partridge, or pheasant, is between the 1st February and the 1st September; for quail, between 1st February and the 1st October; for woodcock, 1st March and 15th July; and wild swan, goose, duck, widgeon, ortel, 1st April and 1st August. The law also provides that no beaver, muskrat, mink, sable, otter, or fisher, shall be trapped or killed between the 1st May and the 1st November.

It is unlawful to fish for, catch, buy or sell, the following fish in Quebec between the dates named:—Speckled trout, 20th September and 1st April; white fish, in any way, between the 19th November and 1st December, and by net, between 30th May and 1st August. The close season for bass, pike, pickerel (*doree*), and maskinonge, is regulated by Order in Council, to suit different localities.

The close season for red or grey deer, moose, elk, reindeer, and cariboo, in Quebec, is from 1st February to 1st September; for woodcock or snipe, 1st March to 1st August; grouse, partridge, ptarmigan, or pheasant, 1st March to 20th August; wild swan, wild goose, or wild duck, of the kinds known as mallard, gray duck, black duck, wood duck, teal, widgeon, or any other kind of wild duck, 20th May to 20th August; muskrat, 10th May to 1st March.

It is also unlawful to fish for, catch, buy or sell, any of the following fish between the dates named, in Quebec:—Salmon, 31st July and 1st May (fly surface fishing is, however, permitted between 30th April and 31st August); trout or lunge, 15th September and 15th December; bass and pickerel (*doree*), pike, and maskinonge, 30th April and 1st June.

It is also unlawful to kill or snare any birds whatsoever, excepting eagles, falcons, hawks, wild pigeons, kingfishers, crows, and ravens, in either Quebec or Ontario, between the 1st March and the 1st August in each year. This clause was added to the Game Law a few years ago for the purpose of protecting insectivorous birds, and has already had the effect of greatly increasing their number. Several years ago scarcely a bird could be seen in the orchards near Montreal; but last spring and summer they were very numerous, and did much towards exterminating the hordes of caterpillars which were overrunning them.

## SAVINGS BANKS, ETC.

The Savings Banks of Quebec and Ontario are of three kinds : those conducted under an old Act, now repealed except as to Banks actually established, which vest their managements in unpaid trustees ; those which, after being carried on for some time, have obtained special charters ; and those managed by building societies. Most of the chartered banks also receive small sums on deposit, allowing interest upon them ; but very few of these depositors belong to the labouring classes.

It is probably the want of a savings bank system in Ontario and Quebec which has led to the extraordinary development in these provinces, especially the former, of what are called Building Societies. Building societies are of two kinds, permanent and terminable. In both these kinds, shares are acquired by the payment of so much per month ; their distinctive features being, in general terms, these :—

In terminable societies, interest is only paid on invested moneys when the societies are wound up by the expiration of loans made, and then principal and accumulated interest are returned together. Such societies are few, and have not as a rule been prosperous. In permanent societies, shareholders receive dividends half-yearly, and the principal once invested cannot be realized except by sale in the open market. A uniform scale of interest is established by these societies, and all borrowers who have satisfactory security to offer stand on the same footing.

The peculiar features of loans made by building societies are (1) that at each repayment a certain portion of the principal is repaid, together with the interest ; and (2) that such repayments can be made monthly or quarterly. Building societies have acted as *crédit foncier* establishments, and are, no doubt, destined to continue to play a most important part in assisting in the development of the country.

Many building societies have established savings bank branches, and the profits on the investment of savings thus received, above the amount of interest paid, have added to their shareholders' dividends. Savings invested with building societies are by law not to exceed a certain proportion of their assets, and as they are a first charge on such assets, the building society savings branches are very safe.

Building societies are not controlled by Government, except that they are obliged to make returns to the Auditor.

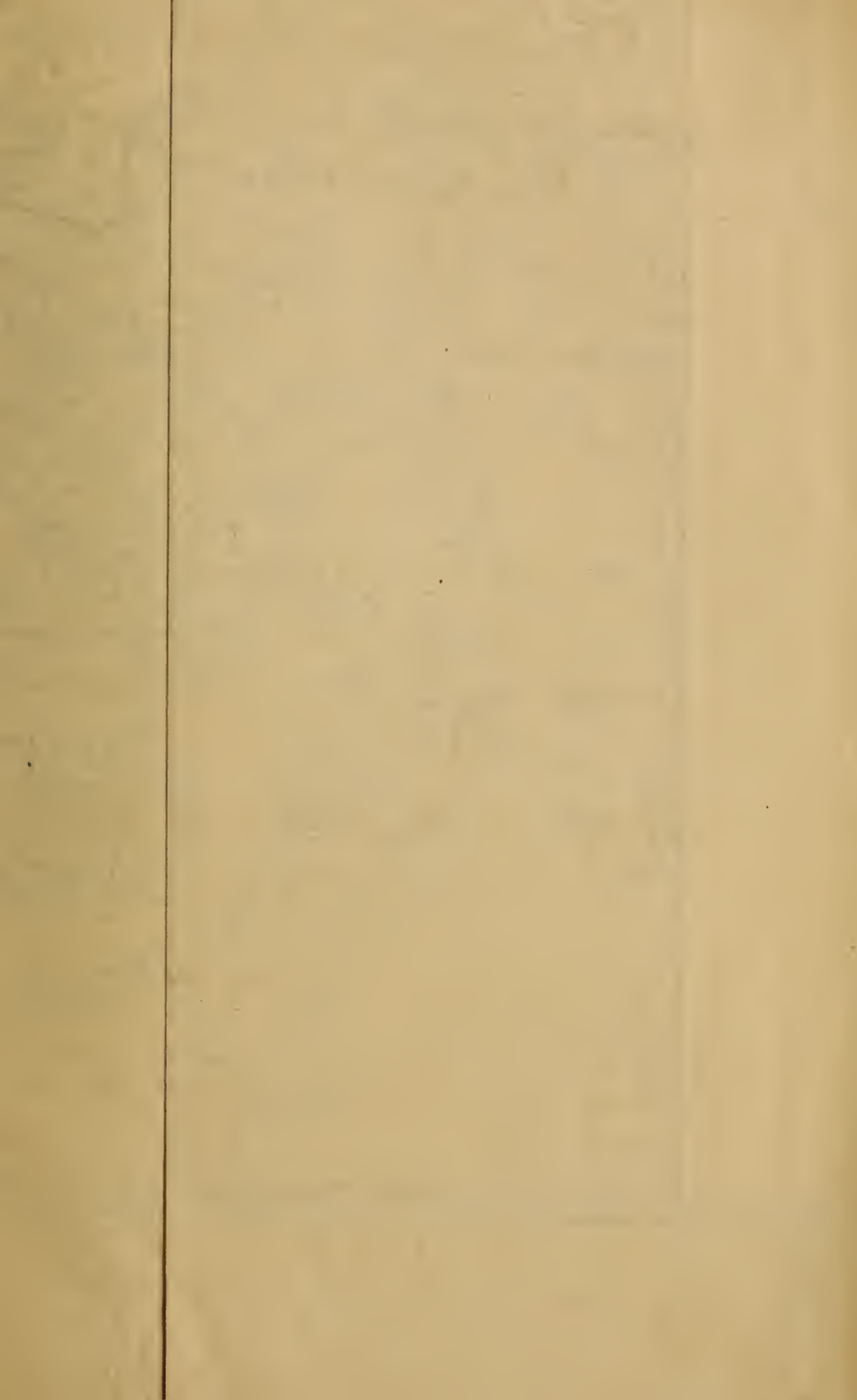
## POST OFFICE.

The Postal service of Quebec and Ontario is both cheap and efficient, the Hon. James Morris having accomplished the reforms which Sir Rowland Hill effected in England. The rate is 5 cents per half-ounce letter prepaid, and 7 cents unpaid. The former rate, it is hoped, will eventually be reduced to 3 cents, which will closely approach the penny postage of the United Kingdom. Post Office Savings Banks, which have proved so successful here, will, no doubt, be soon adopted. The Money Order system within the provinces, and with Great Britain, is in active operation, but, to be complete, should include the United States also. The fluctuating and unsettled currency of the latter, however, at present, quite prevents remittances in this manner. In Quebec and Ontario all money order offices draw upon each other for sums up to 100 dollars in one order, but will grant as many orders as required at a commission of 5 cents for each 10 dollars.

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